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## P R E F A C E.

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WITH this volume begins a new Series of the Proceedings; and a comparison with those immediately preceding it will show that it is improved in its typographical appearance, and presents a more attractive page. It contains no record of any meeting in September, as in former years,—the Council having determined that this month should be included in the summer vacation, which extended from the beginning of July to October.

In addition to the papers which have been presented at stated meetings of the Society, there will be found here six Memoirs. That of the Rev. William Newell, D.D., has been written by Dr. Clarke; that of Horatio G. Somerby, by Mr. Appleton; that of George Dexter, by Mr. C. C. Smith; those of the Hon. Richard Frothingham, LL.D., and Samuel F. Haven, LL.D., by Mr. Deane; and that of Charles W. Tuttle, Ph.D., by Mr. Slafter. Accompanying these biographies are five portraits. The engraved likeness of Mr. Frothingham has been given by Mrs. Frothingham; the heliotypes of Mr. Dexter and Mr. Haven have been kindly furnished by their families; and that of Mr. Somerby is also a gift to the Society.

Inasmuch as some exceptions have been taken to certain statements which have appeared in former volumes of the Proceedings, it seems necessary to say that, in publishing the views of its various members, the Society does not thereby approve them. Different and even contradictory opinions may be brought forward in relation to the same subject at the same or any subsequent meeting; and these will always be printed, without attempting to decide between them. It should be distinctly understood that neither the Committee of Publication nor the Society assumes any responsibility for the communications which are read, or the sentiments which are set forth, or the phraseology which is used by the several writers, but that each individual is alone accountable for the judgments which he makes, and for the language and style which he adopts.

Since the last meeting which is reported in this book, the honored President of the Society has reiterated his desire to be released from further official duty. Having filled the office which he has held for thirty years with pre-eminent ability and fidelity, the members are deeply sensible of the serious loss which they have sustained by his withdrawal, and of their great indebtedness to him. For a whole generation he has contributed, in no small degree, to give the Society its position at home, and to secure for it respect and honor abroad; and every volume of its Proceedings during his long term of service bears witness to his devotion to its interests. This is not the place to speak at length with reference to an event which is second to none that has occurred in the history of the Society; but it is a satis-

faction to know that, though we are no longer to have Mr. Winthrop for our President, he will still remain with us as a member, and that we may entertain the hope that a long time will elapse before his name shall cease to adorn our Resident roll.

“Sic habites terras ! sic te desideret æther !  
Sic ad pacta tibi sidera tardus eas !”

EDWARD J. YOUNG.

CAMBRIDGE, March 27, 1885.